

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15  
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01  
FEA-01 PM-05 ACDA-07 /109 W  
-----068021 172029Z /72

R 171239Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8395  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CZ, EG, UR  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN EMBARGO OF COTTON EXPORTS TO SOVIET UNION  
-- STATISTICAL CLARIFICATION

REF: (A) CAIRO 13525, (B) CAIRO 13655

1. REFTEL A CONTAINS TABLE SHOWING RAW COTTON EXPORTS TO USSR/CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR YEARS 1970-1976, AS REPORTED BY CENTRAL AGENCY FOR PUBLIC MOBILIZATION AND STATISTICS (CAPMAS), AND OUR EXTRAPOLATION FOR 1977. BASED ON MINTRADE INFORMATION REPORTED REFTEL B, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CAPMAS FIGURES FOR 1976 EXPORTS TO USSR (AND THEREFORE OUR EXTRAPOLATION FOR 1977) ARE INCORRECT. MINTRADE, IN PRESS AUGUST 16, ANNOUNCED THAT 1976 EXPORTS TO USSR, ACCORDING BILATERAL TRADE PROTOCOL, WERE 50,000 TONS (OR ABOUT ONE MILLION METRIC KANTARS). THIS DIFFERS SUBSTANTIALYY FROM CAPMAS FIGURE FOR 1976 EXPORTS TO USSR OF 600,000 MK.

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2. IN REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF ABOVE DISCREPANCY, SALEH ABADY, UNDER SECRETARY MINTRADE, TOLD US AUG 16 THAT CAPMAS FIGURES FOR 1976 ARE, HOWEVER, INDEED CORRECT; EGYPT SHIPPED ONLY ABOUT 35,000 TONS (APPROX. 600,000 MK) OF RAW COTTON TO USSR IN 1976 IN SPITE OF ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY 50,000 TONS UNDER TRADE PROTOCOL. SUBSEQUENTLY, APPROXIMATELY SAME AMOUNT

(30,000 TONS) WAS AGREED UPON AS QUOTA FOR 1977 PROTOCOL. TABLE CONTAINED REFTTEL A SHOULD THEREFORE BE AMENDED TO SHOW ESTIMATED 600,000 METRIC KANTARS BEING SHIPPED TO SOVIET UNION IN 1977, VICE 300,000 MK. FIGURES FOR CZECH QUOTA ARE CORRECT. WITH ADDITIONAL AMOUNT PROJECTED FOR USSR, PLANNED EXPORTS FOR 1977 TO USSR/CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE TO HAVE RUN AT ABOUT 30 PERCENT, OR NORMAL PERCENTAGE FOR RECENT YEARS, OF TOTAL ANNUAL RAW COTTON EXPORTS. ABADY TOLD US THAT THIS DISCREPANCY WOULD NOT BE EXPLAINED IN PUBLIC BECAUSE OF OBVIOUS EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITY TO SHORTFALL IN MEETING 1976 QUOTA.

3. BASED ON VALUE OF COTTON SHIPPED TO SOVIET UNION (SEE REFTTEL B) IT WOULD APPEAR THAT EGYPT MANAGED TO INCREASE PRICE RECEIVED FROM USSR SLIGHTLY IN 1977 PROTOCOL OVER 1976. MINTRADE ESTIMATED APPROXIMATELY 60 MILLION POUNDS STERLING FOR 36.3 THOUSAND TONS IN 1976 AND 68 MILLION POUNDS STERLING FOR APPROXIMATELY 30,000 TONS IN 1977.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET PROTESTS THAT EGYPT HAD NOT LIVED UP TO 1976 AGREEMENT, MADE PRIOR TO SIGNING OF 1977 TRADE PROTOCOL IN MARCH, TAKE ON NEW CREDIBILITY IN LIGHT OF DOCUMENTED EGYPTIAN SHORTFALL IN MEETING 1976 RAW COTTON QUOTA EXPORT FOR USSR. EGYPTIANS STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED AT TIME THEY HAD FULFILLED THEIR QUOTA, COUNTERING THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIETS WERE ONES WHO WERE RENEGING ON AGREEMENT.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** EGYPTIAN EMBARGO OF COTTON EXPORTS TO SOVIET UNION -- STATISTICAL CLARIFICATION  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EAGR, CZ, EG, UR  
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**Review Markings:**  
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